

REMARKS

Entry of the above-noted amendment and favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested.

By way of the amendment instructions above, independent claims 24 and 37 have been revised in an effort to emphasize the relative positioning of the rotor in the casing between the inlet and outlet thereof, although somewhat different language and hence claim scope has been adopted as between such claims. Specifically, the pending claims have been revised so as to emphasize that the rotor is mounted in the interior space of the casing transverse to the flow path of the solid-liquid suspension between the inlet and outlet thereof, such that the open rotor center coincides with the flow path of the of the solids-liquid suspension to thereby allow for the flow to pass through the rotor as the solids-liquid suspension flows from the inlet to the outlet along the flow path. Moreover, independent claims 24 and 37 recite that the mass center of flow of solids-liquid suspension when introduced into the interior space of the casing is caused to deviate so that the mass center of flow contacts the blades of the rotor eccentrically relative to the axis of rotation thereof thereby responsively rotating the rotor in a predetermined rotational direction.

Neither McBride nor Van Riper et al disclose or remotely suggest the structures and/or functions as recited in the claims pending herein. As such, neither anticipates or renders obvious the present invention as defined by the pending claims when considered alone or in combination with the Schafhaus reference.

Specifically, applicants note that neither McBride nor Van Riper et al disclose a mixer whereby a rotor is mounted in the interior space of the casing transverse to the flow path of the solid-liquid suspension between the inlet and outlet thereof, such that the **open rotor center coincides with the flow path** of the of the solids-liquid suspension to thereby allow for the flow to pass through the rotor as the solids-liquid suspension flows from the inlet to the outlet along the flow path. McBride's "open rotor center" is disposed laterally relative to the flow path through the intermediate pipe potion

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2 and not **coincident** therewith. Van Riper et al's rotor is not mounted transverse to the flow path of the fluid, but instead appears to be mounted in alignment therewith.

Further responding, neither McBride nor Van Riper et al disclose any means by which a mass center of flow of a solids-liquid suspension when introduced into the interior space of the casing may be caused to deviate so that such mass center of flow contacts blades of the rotor eccentrically relative to the axis of rotation thereof thereby responsively rotating the rotor in a predetermined rotational direction. Specifically, in McBride the mass center of flow of liquid would appear to not deviate at all, but instead continues to flow in a straight-line fashion through the conduit 2. Moreover, if the Examiner takes the position that flow deviates via the arms R in Van Riper et al, she cannot then assert reasonably that such flow discharged from the arms R is caused to contact the blades in an eccentric manner.

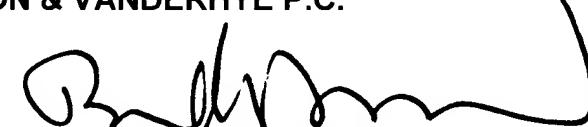
The applied Schafhaus reference is also inappropriate. Specifically, while Schafhaus does disclose a "valve" or sorts, that is really all that it discloses. It does not teach modifying the Van Riper reference in order to arrive at the present invention as discussed above.

Therefore, in view of the amendments and remarks above, withdrawal of all rejections advanced under 35 USC §§102(b) and 103(a) are in order. Such favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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